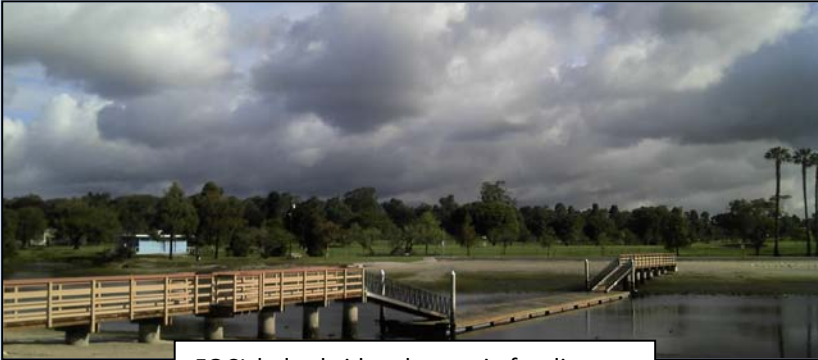




Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project Awarded \$3.3 Million Dollars From State Water Board to Complete the Dredging of the Lagoon!



FOCL helps bridge the gap in funding...

The past two years have brought substantial progress toward the goal of restoring the Colorado Lagoon. In September 2008, ARRA stimulus funds from the State Water Board and funding from the Port of Long Beach enabled us to build a bio-swale, clean out the 1000' long culvert connecting the lagoon to Alamitos Bay, and install significant storm drain improvements. Last August the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved Alternative 4a, the Open Channel option, after a detailed study and months-long community feedback process suggested that a larger tidal creek connecting to Marine Stadium would be most optimal. On Tuesday May 17th, the project received \$3.3 million from the State Water Board (SWB) through their Cleanup and Abatement Account, thus completing fundraising for the next phase - dredging the toxic contaminants from the Lagoon marine sediment. FOCL attended this and the previous SWB meeting in Sacramento to show the extent of community support this project has. The allocation of these monies from the SWB is an acknowledgement that this project has state-wide importance and is a testament to the community, city, county and state partnerships that have developed. With this support, the dredging component of the restoration is scheduled to begin November 2011 and should be completed by April 2012. Combined with the work completed in 2010, we should begin to see substantially cleaner and safer water as early as summer 2012.

After the State Water Board meeting State Senator Alan Lowenthal, who supported our request for funds from the SWB, said: "It takes everyone." That is true, it does take everyone; this project takes support at every level. These milestones along our path to clean and safe lagoon are accomplished only through partnerships and the outstanding support of our members:

every donation, every letter written, every volunteer hour recorded matters. We are seeing this manifested in the Colorado Lagoon project and it is the same story for successful conservation efforts everywhere. Thank you for your continued support.

In this issue of FOCL Points you will find examples of the many ways the Friends of Colorado Lagoon are partnering to maximize our successes and leverage our energies. Education Director Taylor Parker writes about how we have received a grant from NOAA to increase education about fishing, marine science and contamination. Eric Zahn, Restoration Director, tells us about partnering with LA County after the Termino Avenue Drain Project, and Creative Arts Director Timothy Dunham shares his ideas for our upcoming summer eco-event, Acoustic Tidal Artwalk. Finally, on the last page, see how we've collaborated with the City of Long Beach's Office of Sustainability to provide a restoration technician training venue for their Pacific Gateway Workforce.

As always, Friends of Colorado Lagoon could not celebrate these successes without our member's input and support. Drop us a note with your thoughts at friends@coloradolagoon.org.

Sincerely,
Dave Pirazzi
President
Friends of Colorado Lagoon



Friends of Colorado Lagoon Presents

ACOUSTIC TIDAL ARTWALK



12^{noon} to 10^{pm} JULY 16th

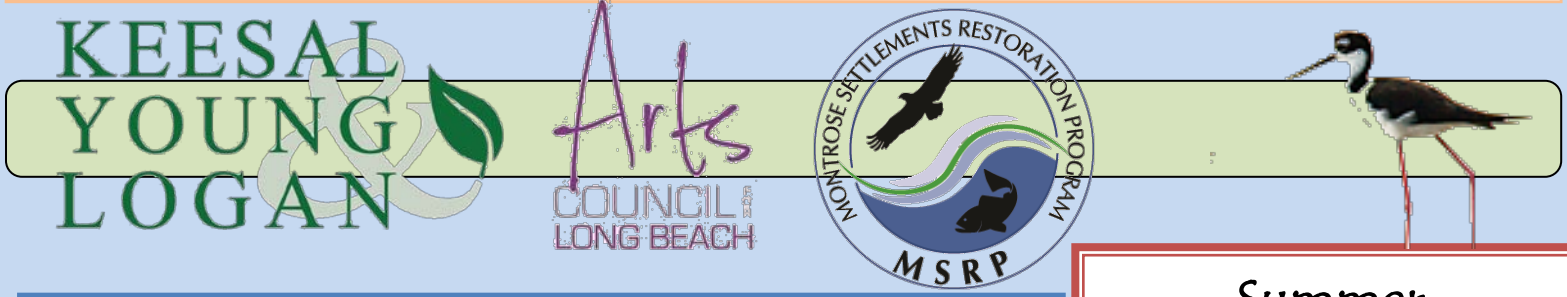
a night of art and music on the sand @ the Colorado Lagoon



Creative Arts @ the Lagoon ~ Timothy Dunham

Friends of Colorado Lagoon's Acoustic Tidal Artwalk is a "A night of art and music in the sand." Through the use of live and static art, music and hands on education this event offers the opportunity for artists, musicians and the community to connect with the Colorado Lagoon in a special way. The art for the evening not only engages viewers but also provides an experience unique to the Colorado Lagoon. The event takes into consideration the rise and fall of tides along the beach of the Lagoon: art display posts are dug into the sand and the exhibit corresponds with the and the art is hung during low tide. As the evening progresses the tide begins to rise, covers the posts and a beautiful scene of art over the water is created. This offers a unique perspective of the art and the changing tide; a process most people have never witnessed firsthand. This volunteer-led, family oriented, community event is a chance to raise awareness and celebrate our local wetlands through Art, Music and Education.

FOCL's Acoustic Tidal Artwalk is a unique way for our environmental organization and Some Thing's Creative to creatively engage the aesthetic sensibilities of our surrounding community to further develop a stewardship ethic that will sustainably engender a sense of responsible ownership of the Colorado Lagoon. Presenting the historically abused Lagoon as a beautiful venue for an outdoor, interactive art display is another strategy to help inspire a cultural change that will bring about a better Long Beach and more appreciation for our natural resources. We hope to see all Friends – and friends of Friends – at the Lagoon this summer to share this special event with everyone!



Lagoon Explorations ~ Taylor Parker, FOCL Education Director

Love of nature takes many forms at the Colorado Lagoon. Daily you can see parents and grandparents taking their kids and grandkids on walks along the shore at the Lagoon, pointing out birds on the water or catching site of the fish darting under the bridge. To build upon the wonder that appeals to all of us as we are in proximity to nature, FOCL has invested much into our free education program that facilitates individual exploration for all curious Lagoon-goers. We encourage responsible and fun engagement with the Lagoon and all the marine life that call it home. This summer we will once again open the doors of the WAMSEC to the public for that purpose. Check out the invite on the right for more info and be sure to swing by sometime and talk to FOCL Naturalists about the Lagoon, the plants we've planted around it and the animals living within the water.

Also, the education program has been fortunate enough to develop several new wonderful partnerships in the last few months. Above you will see the logos for KYL, the Long Beach Arts Council, and NOAA's Montrose Settlements Restoration Program. Each has contributed much needed funding for specific education programming to increase the awareness within our community and beyond. Also, on the back page of this newsletter, check out the photos from the new program we've built in collaboration with the City of Long Beach's Office of Sustainability Pacific Gateway Workforce. This collaboration is designed to train young, enthusiastic people who live within the confines of concrete and asphalt in "Green Collar" skills that work toward a sustainable city. We thank all of our partners for their incredible support to build this community-based program together.

Summer Science Shack Hours!

Friends of Colorado Lagoon invites you to Explore Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology at the Colorado Lagoon at the Wetland and Marine Science Education Center (WAMSEC)!

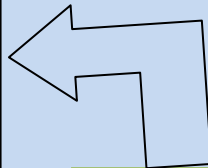
June 4th – Labor Day
Saturday & Sunday 2pm–7pm

Free! And Open to all Ages!
Coloradolagoon.org
Education@coloradolagoon.org

Native Trees

Photo and text by Adrienne Bosler, FOCL Board member & Education Committee Chair

Native trees were planted by volunteers in the spring of 2009 to frame the East Bank restoration site. Among them resides the Western Sycamore tree (*Platanus racemosa*) – a native most comfortable in riparian and floodplain habitats. Known as “aliso” in Spanish, this tree provides superior habitat for the many birds, reptiles and insects that call the Colorado Lagoon home. Its hand-shaped leaves provide food for the Western Tiger Swallowtail butterfly, and its branches are sturdy enough for a raptor’s nest. In fact, the California sycamore is a bird magnet, providing habitat for acorn woodpeckers, kingbirds, warblers and waxwing cedars to name a few. This is a tree of many colors, with green leaves emerging in the spring followed by the fall of burnt orange foliage late in autumn. Walk by the community-planted restoration site today and you’ll catch this sentinel in bloom!



Historic Colorado Lagoon Photo ~ circa 1951

FOCL member Alan Matisoff responded to our request for historic photos of the Lagoon with this family photograph from 1951 (to the left). Alan says: “That’s me standing in the background and my sister is being held by my aunt. We were regulars at the Colorado Lagoon. Uncles, Aunts and all the cousins used to go on a regular basis. We were all from Montebello and Monterey Park at the time.” Behind the younger Alan, notice the throngs of people crowding the beach.

Thanks Alan for the picture and support! If there are photos or memories you would like to share, send them to Friends@coloradolagoon.org.

Please Stay Off The Grass ☺

by Eric Zahn, FOCL Restoration Director

After the Termino Avenue Drain Project roared through the Lagoon’s Appian Way parking lot, FOCL was left with a new and exciting project. Instead of replacing the asphalt that once covered the median separating Appian Way from the parking lot, LA county left the median as a permeable plantable surface so that it could be transformed into a native plant demonstration garden and help control some of the urban run-off from our roadways. After much discussion, FOCL naturalists determined that we wanted to use this space to pay homage to one of the most beautiful and mistreated coastal habitats of California. The Grasslands!

This became a fun endeavor for our salt marsh oriented restoration team who now had to learn some new species of cryptic monocots. Determining which grasses were appropriate for planting around the Lagoon was a challenge considering over 300 species of native grasses are found in California which are an integral part of diverse habitats, ranging from cool, wet forests to hot, dry deserts and of course our mild coastline. Unfortunately, despite their ubiquitous nature there has been a noticeable decline in native grasses and grasslands in the last two centuries due to intensive cultivation, poorly managed grazing, urbanization, fire suppression, and the introduction of invasive, nonnative grass and forb species. It is estimated that 90% of California’s rare and endangered species inhabit the state’s grassland ecosystems which probably is the case because only 10% of historic California grassland habitat still are intact.

This is a shame considering these plant communities are not only attractive but help stabilize soil, increase water infiltration, and recycle nutrients. Furthermore, native grasses planted in urban landscapes are low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, and can filter polluted runoff.

So this is why FOCL decided to introduce some of these wonderful grassland species to a portion of the Lagoon. This winter FOCL volunteers performed initial plantings of 5 different grass species including Deer Grass, Alkali Sacaton, Purple Needle Grass, Coast Melic, and Foothill Needle Grass. We plan to continue working on this educational and functional native grassland planting more this fall after Appian Way has been repaved. So come join one of FOCL’s habitat restoration events and learn more about this lost habitat of California



Friends of Colorado Lagoon

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Taylor Parker
Dave Pirazzi
Eric Zahn



Friends of Colorado Lagoon
+
The City of Long Beach's Office of Sustainability Collaborate!



FOCL and the City of Long Beach's Office of Sustainability have been collaborating over the past few months to train young Long Beach adults in "Green Collar" skills. In addition to their many eco-friendly projects around Long Beach, the Pacific Gateway Workforce dedicates every Monday morning to restoring the habitat of the Colorado Lagoon. FOCL naturalists and restoration technicians have been hosting the Workforce and training them in proper urban/nature interface development such as native plant installation, non-native invasive plant removal and trash removal and management. Together, we are using the Lagoon as a vector to tell the story of an important conservation effort and instill a burgeoning positive environmental ethic in the future professionals in our great city. Come down on a Monday and see the program in action!

